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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4335

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: CHIRAC VISIT

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REF: MOSCOW 4173

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT GAVE US A READ-OUT AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING MARCH 27 ON THE CHIRAC VISIT. BREZHNEV SEEMED IN GOOD HEALTH THOUGH ADMITTING TO BEING TIRED. CSCE RECEIVED THE MOST ATTENTION, WITH SHARP DISAGREEMENT OVER THE FRENCH REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE NEW PEACEFUL CHANGE FORMULATION UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT ON QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS. THE FRENCH ARE TRYING A NEW DRAFT ON QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS. THE FRENCH FEEL THEY KEPT THE COMMUNIQUE CONSISTENT WITH THE BREZHNEV-GISCARD COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER, EXCEPT FOR CYPRUS ON WHICH THE LANGUAGE IS MORE ANTI-TURKISH. VIMONT DID NOT MENTION THE NEW VARIANT ON THE MIDDLE EAST (REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR VIMONT DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS ONE OF A SERIES OF INTERMEDIATE VISITS SUPPLEMENTING THE FRENCH-SOVIET SUMMITS. HE COMPARED IT TO POMPIDOU'S VISIT HERE AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1967 AND TO KOSYGIN'S VISIT TO FRANCE IN 1968. AS SUCH, VIMONT INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH DO NOT LOOK ON THE VISIT AS A MAJOR POLICY-MAKING ONE. AND HE NOTED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED FEW DIFFERENCES FROM THE BREZHNEV-GISCARD COMMUNIQUE OF LAST DECEMBER.

3. BREZHNEV'S HEALTH. THE FRENCH SAID BREZHNEV SEEMED IN GOOD FORM, BUT NOTED THAT HE TOLD CHIRAC THAT HE WAS TIRED FROM HIS TRIP TO HUNGARY. THE FRENCH COULD DETECT NO SIGNS OF ILLNESS, AND SAID THAT EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL WITH BREZHNEV. BREZHNEV SPENT THREE HOURS WITH CHIRAC, MOST OF THE TIME ALONE WITH HIM. VIMONT, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED TO US HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO WRAP-UP CSCE BY JUNE 30 IS RELATED TO BREZHNEV'S POSITION AND HEALTH. VIMONT SAID HE SUSPECTS THAT BREZHNEV MAY STEP DOWN BEFORE THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS.

4. CSCE. CSCE RECEIVED THE OVERWHELMING ATTENTION OF THE PRINCIPALS AND THEIR DEPUTIES DURING THE VISIT. A PLENARY SESSION OF THREE HOURS WAS DEVOTED TO IT, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED IT FOR ANOTHER HOUR. OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNIQUE. CHIRAC BROUGHT WITH HIM A RESPONSE FROM GISCARD TO BREZHNEV'S SUMMIT PROPOSAL, IN WHICH GISCARD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SUMMIT COULD TAKE PLACE AT THE APPROXIMATE DATE PROPOSED BUT ADDED THAT SOME PROBLEMS ARE STILL TO BE SOLVED

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AND THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST MAKE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THEM.

5. PEACEFUL CHANGE AND QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE OVER CSCE WAS THE FRENCH REFUSAL TO REGISTER PEACEFUL CHANGE LANGUAGE UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT ON QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS. VIMONT DESCRIBED GROMYKO AS FURIOUS WITH THIS POSITION AND THE EXCHANGE OVER IT AS QUITE ACRIMONIOUS. IN THE END IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE TWO DELEGATIONS AT GENEVA WOULD

TRY TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM WITHIN TEN DAYS TIME, AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES PLANS TO ATTEMPT A REDRAFT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS TEXT.

6. CBM'S. GROMYKO MENTIONED THE SOVIET VOLUNTARY FORMULA ON MANEUVERS AND DESCRIBED THE FRENCH AS THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD NOT MADE UP THEIR MIND ABOUT IT. HE SAID THAT THE U.S., THE UK, AND THE FRG HAD ALL AGREED, TO WHICH THE FRENCH EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE BUT SAID THAT IN ANY CASE THE MATTER WAS NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FRANCE. IN DESCRIBING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, GROMYKO SAID THAT LARGE ZONES WERE PERMISSIBLE SO LONG AS THE VOLUNTARY FORMULA WAS AGREED TO. VIMONT DID NOT SAY WHETHER GROMYKO HAD REFERRED TO NUMBERS OF TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE MANEUVERS.

7. BASKET THREE. AS USUAL, THE SOVIETS REPROACHED THE FRENCH FOR THEIR POSITION ON READING ROOMS. THE FRENCH RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFARIS, BUT WERE SIMPLY ASKING FOR THE EXPRESSION OF MOSCOW'S INTENTION TO OPEN READING ROOMS IN DUE COURSE. ACCORDING TO VIMONT, THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REMAINED UNBRIDGED.

3. FOLLOW-ON. THE SOVIETS SAID NOTHING ABOUT A FOLLOW-ON, AND THE FRENCH DID NOT RAISE IT EITHER.

9. COMMUNIQUE. VIMONT SAID THERE WERE FEW DIFFERENCES WITH THE RAMBOUILLET COMMUNIQUE. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE WAS OVER CYPRUS, ON WHICH THE FRENCH AGREED TO MORE ANTI-TURKISH LANGUAGE THAN THEY HAD LAST DECEMBER. AS IS THEIR WONT, THE SOVIETS TRIED TO GET A REFERENCE TO WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM "CYPRUS" BUT THE FRENCH WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING THE LANGUAGE "REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS." IN THE COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING SESSIONS, THE FRENCH REJECTED A SOVIET ATTEMPT TO REFER TO THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF

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DETENTE AND TO A SOVIET REFERENCE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

11. ECONOMIC ITEMS. TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS WERE SPENT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, ONE-AND-A-HALF IN THE PLENARY AND ONE HOUR IN TALKS BETWEEN SOVIET DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KIRILLIN AND FRENCH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY D'ORNANO. VIMONT SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED VARIOUS PROJECTS FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION; HE INDICATED THAT NOTHING NEW HAD DEVELOPED. HE REFERRED TO FRENCH PRESS REFERENCES TO A 20-30 BILLION FRANC TRADE LEVEL, AND ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS NO INCREASE OVER WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT RAMBOUILLET. VIMONT SAID THAT THE COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT WAS THE ONLY BASIC DIFFERENCE WITH THE DECEMBER COMMUNIQUE.

12. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, BOTH AT SOVIET INITIATIVE AND BOTH PREPARED IN HASTE IN MOSCOW, VIMONT DESCRIBED THEM AS QUITE VAGUE. THE SOVIETS HAD TRIED TO ACHIEVE SEPARATE COMMISSIONS FOR EACH AGREEMENT AND TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEMSELVES TO MAKE CONTACT WITH SEPARATE FRENCH FIRMS. THE FRENCH RESISTED THIS EFFORT AND KEPT THE AGREEMENTS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE MIXED-COMMISSION SYSTEM. THE SOVIETS HAD ALSO WANTED A THIRD AGREEMENT, ON TOURISM, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROAD ACCIDENTS AND RECIPROCITY IN AN AIR CHARTER SYSTEM.

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